

Clashes in Maguindanao imperil peace talks; 13 dead

Hot babe mad at Viva mag showing her nude

By Michael Uliac and Philip Tabasa
 MAGUINDANAO
 A peace agreement between the MILF and the government is in jeopardy after a series of clashes in Maguindanao province.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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- WHAT'S INSIDE**
- 2003 budget deficit on target
 - Grip hurt in fall as knee buckle
 - Israel lay try on Saddam barred
 - WORLD/AM

FPJ to Muslims: No backing out



HOW you see him, now you don't. But on Tuesday, Fernando Poe Jr. put in a rare personal appearance during his last public appearance in the Philippines as a member of the party-list group in the House of Representatives. He was seen with the Muslim traditionalists and pledged support.

Saddam daughter demands int'l trial for detained leader

BAGHDAD—Saddam Hussein's family wants the former leader to be tried by an international court instead of a special tribunal set up by the UN-backed Iraq Governing Council, one of his daughters said Tuesday.

Raghad Saddam Hussein urged an international trial for her father after US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair called for a public trial that would be conducted in a manner to be determined by the Iraqi people, with no mention of outside participation.

At the stage, her voice legal experts noted that she placed out of Saddam before a special tribunal—in which he could face a death trial and the death penalty—would be a cover-up of justice without a role for the international judicial community.

Actor to file candidacy on Dec. 29, says Sotto

By Don Paz Reyes and Christine O. Arcevaldo

AFTER making his first political speech since he declared his candidacy under Fernando Poe Jr., yesterday categorically said he was not backing out of the presidential race.

At the event, opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara quickly supported Poe's message, saying Poe's candidacy was "a go, and so he's looking forward to the campaign."

Poe's unofficial spokesperson, Sen. Vicente Sotto III, said the actor would file his certificate of candidacy on Dec. 29, a date fixed up in a meeting that he, Angara, and Poe had Monday night. Angara said he could tell reporters only that what they talked about was "negotiations" at the details of the campaign.

Poe's campaign remains in Club Filipino, before the first congress of the media-in-party-list group Anakbong (Anakbong People's Party), scheduled to be convened a meeting sometime.

Before he took the floor, the party-list group presented him with a support agenda for his first 100 days in office.



THE DAWNING OF CHRISTMAS
 Thousands at the Las Plaz Church at dawn of Dec. 16, the eve of the nine-day Masses leading to the birthday of Jesus Christ, a tradition with the passion of Filipinos across time and reason for Christmas's love-filled feast.

Biggest OFW group inclined to back Roco

By Herman Bordado Jr.

THE PRESIDENTIAL campaign of Alvaro ng Pagsasailig (Alliance of Independent People's Party) is getting a boost from the biggest organization of overseas Filipino workers in its electoral campaign in the Philippines.

Migrants international has its chapters in 12 countries and local chapters nationwide and plans to vote for party-list representation in the May elections.

Now and support would be in his campaign.

"The leaders of migrants have told me about their willingness to help in our presidential campaign," Roco said in the presence of migrants leaders after he addressed the migrants' workers' convention in the campus of the University of the Philippines.

Roco publicly called for votes in favor of migrants in the party-list race during the convention, which was also attended by Alvaro ng Pagsasailig, Philippine Migration, Middle Eastern Migration, Middle Eastern Migration, Middle Eastern Migration.

Powell: Ople was a pivotal figure in RP history

By Jerome Asiong

MANILA After several years' service, US Secretary of State Colin Powell eulogized Foreign Secretary Ma Ople as "one of the pivotal figures of the late 19th century Philippine history."

He was a conservative man who won distinction as an academic, author, legislator and statesman, and was a warm friend of the United States," Powell said in a statement dated Dec. 15.

The US official also recalled Ople's staunch support for the United States from Ople's days as a guerrilla fighter during World War II to his role in the global war on terrorism.

In particular, Powell lauded Ople for "pioneering" his work in that he was a conservative man who won distinction as an academic, author, legislator and statesman, and was a warm friend of the United States," Powell said in a statement dated Dec. 15.



DIBS OUT From Bahrain, President Macapagal Arroyo respects to Foreign Secretary Ma Ople and considers his New Year's wishes at Clark Air Base in Great Meadows, Quezon City. Ople was on his way to Bahrain to join the President's trip but he was held by a heart attack.

The warm praise reflected the camaraderie of Philippine-American relations, which grew much closer under Ople and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Powell said Ople, who passed away on Monday, "will be remembered in international circles, but he leaves behind a US-Philippine relationship that has grown stronger month by month since he took over the job."

Lawmaker blames Neri for deficit

REVENUE Planning Secretary Arroyo blamed Neri for the government's budget deficit, a senior member of the House of Representatives said Tuesday.

Rep. Leopoldo Lopez (Luzon, Antique) said Neri, former head of the Congressional Planning and Budget Office, was among those who pushed for the specific tax system on "his product," which has failed to generate enough revenue for the government.

"It was not who convinced lawmakers in 1995 to adopt a specific tax system (policy) of the value added of various tax systems for exporters and domestic market and a tax system," Lopez said.

Now Neri is in the Cabinet, it is "very far from me" that the current tax system has failed and that intervention is the answer," Lopez said.

Lopez said Neri, former chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, was "responsible for the deficit."

Church, state worst enemies of family planning

By Quijano de Manila

THE Philippines' leading writer, Max Acuña (aka Quijano de Manila), gave some provocative views on the consequences of "unbridled family planning."

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COMMENTARY

SHABU INGREDIENTS

Customs presses smuggling rap vs Erap adviser

By Philip C. Talavera

THE BUREAU of Customs has asked the Court of Appeals to dismiss Zamboanga trader Lee Ding Wei's legal challenge to the criminal charges filed against him by the justice department.

In a 12-page comments, customs collector Wls. Antonio V. Mangosing said Justice Secretary Jose Antonio Desamano did not re-assertly uphold the charges against Lee for allegedly importing chemicals that could be used for the possible manufacture of the illegal drug, methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

"Verifiable cases need not be based on direct and convincing evidence of guilt, neither on evidence establishing guilt beyond reasonable doubt and definitely not on evidence establishing absolute certainty of guilt," said Mangosing.

In a resolution last October, Desamano dismissed Lee's motion asking the Department of Justice to dismiss the case against him for allegedly violating Republic Act 9165, or the Toxic Substances and Narcotics and Synthetic White Control Act of 1990.

Former Justice Secretary Hermenegildo Perez had dismissed Lee in September 2000 for Desamano reversed Perez's decision. It was Desamano's April resolution that Lee appealed.

Besides Lee, the other respondents in the case were *Shikaguan national* Ang Bang Kien, the Singapore, Sim Ewee Ewe, Michael Garcia, Stanley Lim and Ngap Whang. The last named were witnesses.

Lee was accused of being the owner of 27 drums of chemicals, said to be ingredients for manufacture of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu, that were smuggled in to the country from Malaysia in June 2000 on board MV Lucky Lady-Lee 2.

Lee, who was designated adviser on Malaysian affairs by presidential spokesman Francisco, was listed in the shipment's papers as the consignee.

Lee is believed to wield considerable influence in southern Mindanao and was extremely close to the news agency with the publication of his own Manila adviser Robert Amangco's published account of the Sipadan hostage crisis, which touched on Lee's controversial role in the release of the Sapporo hostages.

Mangosing said Lee "cannot help ignorance" about the contents of Lee's affidavit which categorically said that Lee owned the 27 drums of chemicals.

He added that Lee was involved in another affidavit "denying the conspiracy" of the respondents to illegally import the chemicals.

The importation of the chemicals needed the approval of the Dangerous Drugs Board, the Environmental Management Board and the PHO-Vietnam and Explosives Unit but Lee allegedly was not able to produce any permits from those agencies.

Department of Interior and Technology and PRT examined the chemicals and found they were highly toxic.

Also, Philippine National Police Chief and country chief Gila filed Mallicoa ruled that one of the chemicals from the seized drums, methylene chloride, might used as solvent for shabu production.

Based thousands of the DOST confirmed that another chemical found in the seized drums, toluene, may be used to produce heroin which is used in producing methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

Another chemical found was isobutyl alcohol, which is listed in a "precursor or essential chemical to the production of narcotic drugs" under the 1998 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics Drugs.

S. Korean tourist drowns off Cebu

A SOUTH KOREAN tourist drowned and his corpse was rescued yesterday after their motorboat capsized off Cebu Island, officials said.

Commander Rocco Hernandez, head of the Philippine Coast Guard, said in Cebu City, said the boat was en route to Banaue Island, a floating resort off Olongapo Island where their boat was capsized by big waves and strong winds some 100 meters from shore.

The 36-year-old, TC, drowned and another tourist suffered minor injuries. The rest were unharmed, Hernandez said.

Most witnesses were able to place the corpse from the water. They were later airlifted by helicopter to nearby air base here.

NEW COURT PLEA

Erap hurt in fall as knees buckle

By Fernando R. Nolasco

IT COULD be his weight. But more likely it was his arthritic knees that caused the fall he is now giving as an alibi reason to seek treatment abroad.

"I was just walking, when my knees caved in, and I fell to the ground. I still have lesions on my forehead," detained former president Joseph Estrada told the International Herald Tribune during telephone interview from Camp Cagay Interior Security Base.

Yesterday, Estrada cited the incident to formally ask the fine division of the Sandiganbayan for permission to go the United States to have his knees operated on by American surgeon Dr. Christopher Mose.

"I am compelled to appeal to Your Honor's sense of sympathy on account of the pain that I am enduring and experiencing," the ex-president said in his one-page letter. "A few days ago, I stopped when my knees gave in and my forehead hit the pavement. I sustained injuries as a result, and the scars are still visible."

It was the first time that Estrada wrote to the court, whom authority he had consistently questioned, maintaining that he is still president.

He cited that Dr. Antonio Caliano, orthope-

dic and spine surgeon at the Jaime Hospital and Medical Center, had previously testified before the Sandiganbayan the "severe deterioration of my knee condition." He said his affliction "is now progressed to the spinal column."

Estrada, who is being planked and grab charges before the fine division, is also suffering from "multiple slipped discs," which doctors say could paralyze him from the waist down.

The former leader said that he wants to be treated by Mose, who knows his "true" condition.

"He has... monitored my knee condition for the last five years, that, my complete trust and confidence in him," said Estrada, again stating his right as patient to seek treatment by a doctor and his hospital, of his choice.

Government prosecutors earlier offered to help facilitate Mose's entry into the country to treat Estrada's knees in Manila.

The ex-president's letter came a day after his over-appointed lawyer filed a motion asking the Sandiganbayan to allow him to spend Christmas and New Year's Day with his aging mother in her San Juan home.

In the motion seeking a slow-day hallway for Estrada, lawyers Juan B. Hambrano and Noel Salays said their client's 69-year-old mother was in a very ill health condition.

NBI asked to probe Villaruel death

By Lita B. Salasanta

THE DIED of dismember Air Transportation Officer shot Danilo Villaruel yesterday, he said, is asked the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the manner against death, which the family believe is a case of murder.

In fact, the Villaruel lawyer Juan Ben Pedro yesterday said that among the angles the family wanted the bureau investigated is the absence of any negotiation for Villaruel's surrender when he took over the air control tower at the airport last month.

"The captain was just a matter of inspection feelings," Ben Pedro said yesterday.

Ben Pedro accompanied Villaruel's wife Maribel, his daughter Mary Ann and his son Erik to meet with officials of the National

Capital Region Division of the FBI.

Villaruel's family has maintained that the former ATO chief was willing and ready to surrender when members of the Special Weapons and Tactics team barged into the control tower and killed Villaruel and his companion Lt. S.G. Ricardo Cariblan in a hail of gunfire while the captain was crying surrender to allow radio interview.

Maribel had earlier denounced the manner her husband was killed.

Ben Pedro also said yesterday that the family would request the FBI to speak with persons who have seen or talked with Villaruel while he was going to the tower or while he was inside the tower, as these people could give valuable information about Villaruel's state of mind on that fateful day.

S. Korea battles bird flu virus

SEOUL—South Korea—South Korean health officials, alarmed by thousands of chickens and ducks dying and worried of a wide area of farmland to fight the apparent spread of a highly contagious bird flu virus that could be fatal to humans, officially said.

Quarantine officials had earlier 1,200 ducks culled and begged for burial and ordered an other 5,000 chickens slaughtered near the still-burning zone in Chungcheong province, 130 km southeast of Seoul.

It was suspected that the ducks had been infected by the virus from a neighboring chicken farm where it was first detected, the ministry said.

The outbreak epidemic killed more than 26,000 chickens in the farm earlier this month and the remaining 1,000 were culled, it said.

"The ducks may or may not be infected. But we decided to cull them to contain the possible spread of the virus," Kim Chang-won, director of animal health division at the ministry, said.

Ministry officials said the number of eggs laid by the ducks had "significantly" decreased in recent days—one of the symptoms of bird flu in ducks.

Kim said the duck farm was 2.5 km away from a chicken farm where the deadly bird flu virus was first confirmed last Monday.

He said the ministry had decided to slaughter

not the 5,000 chickens "because their farms were located right next to the neighbor farm" infected by the bird flu virus.

The ministry's national veterinary and quarantine service said the chicken deaths were caused by a mixture of the same H5N1 bird flu virus that killed six people last September in 1997.

Quarantine authorities have banned the movement of animals from all 76 poultry farms within a 10 km radius of the infected chicken farms. Some 470,000 chickens, eggs hatched in the area were also destroyed, it said.

Access to the farmsteads was restricted and visitors and workers were disinfected in entry and exit. "Bog-chur" signs were displayed in an attempt to deter visitors, quarantine said.

The National Institute of Health (NIH), affiliated with the health and welfare ministry, said it had yet to confirm that the bird flu virus found in South Korea could infect humans.

The health institute has said the H5N1 virus has no signs.

"Eight people were infected last month as symptoms of the disease," Jose Spring, top NIH quarantine director, told reporters last Monday.

"However, we cannot rule out the possibility of infection in human transmission, so we are conducting blood tests on 106 patients nearby."

There has been no reported case of human being infected by the virus in South Korea, he said.

Health officials say it could take a month or more to fully control the bird flu virus found in South Korea, officials said.

In 1997, the H5N1 virus in Hong Kong killed six of 18 infected people and prompted authorities to order the slaughter of the territory's entire poultry stock.

A further 500,000 birds were destroyed following a second outbreak in February 2002.

The virus first outbreak of the H5N1 virus reported in South Korea, though less fatal, signs of bird flu have been detected since the past seven years, officials said.

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Roh to quit if graft raps proven

SEOUL—South Korea's President Roh Moo-hyun on Tuesday rejected a condition stipulated in a deal to end a corruption probe, saying he was ready to appear before prosecutors.

Roh, 57, apologized to the nation today during a 45-minute press conference at the presidential Blue House.

He vowed for the upcoming election that he would pledge South Korea to a clean government.

He rejected a pledge made only two days ago to resign. If prosecutors found his supporters had raised nearly 100 million won (US\$80,000) for the upcoming election, he would pledge South Korea to a clean government.

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le lost," said Roh. "I will take the responsibility after all for what I said."

A day after the first investigation into the case, Lee has changed his mind, saying he was ready to appear before prosecutors.

He said he was ready to answer questions from prosecutors if necessary.

He said already as a president I am

ready to face investigation without any delay," Roh said. "I am not voluntarily going to present myself to the prosecutor office, therefore, if needed for the investigation I will let them question me."

But he ruled out following his former opponent Lee's lead in seeking a blanket resignation of all his known other friends.

He said he would not follow his former opponent Lee's lead in seeking a blanket resignation of all his known other friends.

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 The Aegis Christmas Concert will be held on Dec. 26, 2pm at Robinsons Novaliches. The concert will feature a variety of musical acts, including the Aegis Christmas Choir and the Aegis Christmas Orchestra.

Christmas Parties
 Robinsons Novaliches is hosting a variety of Christmas parties, including a Christmas Dinner and a Christmas Party. The parties will be held on Dec. 26, 2pm at Robinsons Novaliches.

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GMA's moral ambivalence

THE PRESIDENT'S latest political move confirms what people have all along said: a constitutional politician who has no qualms about sacrificing moral integrity for the sake of pragmatism.

Between late October, President Macapagal-Arroyo reaffirmed her decision to back in September 2002 that she would not resume deals with senators. Investigating the dubious claims of capital punishment to discontinue, she stressed that what is needed is strengthening of law enforcement agencies. Apparently, the President is not totally convinced about what she had said because she changed her mind suddenly on the introduction of the death penalty to resume execution.

There again, moral consistency yielded to political expediency from there on. Why would anyone say one should not vote for her?



the change in policy came about because of the pressure from the Chinese business leaders whose support for the elections is no doubt being courted by the President. The press did not have the same economic leverage as the wealthy Chinese businessmen. One wonders if the President would make the same policy commitment to them given the fact that the press has nothing to offer to the economy.

Once again, moral consistency yielded to political expediency from there on. Why would anyone say one should not vote for her?

—FR. MEXICO BOMBAS JR., S.J.,
Coeditor, *Against Death Penalty*
c/o *ICP Philippine Connection* c/o
Ramon Padua Corp.
400 General Luna St.,
Jattonville, Manila

Made into losers twice over

NOT long ago, selected Vice President David's determined advocacy of women rights, that in her column of Nov. 26, 27, 28 and 30, we saw how endorsement can transform into a cruel tool in humiliating the reputation and integrity of an accused and other people never involved in the incident. David's new behavior is, it would have been his if she were made her look deeper into the case to find out almost to find two sides to a coin.

The incident that David exposed in her column is an open and old story that has changed over the PCJR Medical Center from a woman why did it seem about it only once. It is an isolated case and several law students have never been part of the "review" of the PCJ in the Department of Orthopedics to the manner that David has portrayed it. There has been no covering of the case. The director of the PCJ and the dean of the UP College of Medicine acted with a justifying and investigating all parties concerned when this happened.

It is noteworthy, in how these investigating committees have such from the College of Medicine, the University Hospital and the

UP Manila Chapter respectively have been created to look into the matter. The investigation of these investigating committees finally culminated in an all-investigation case against the accused after all due process was carried out. The case has been tried by a University Internal Council consisting of members who were appointed by the faculty of the respondent and the complainant. I learned recently asked and UP Manila is waiting for the final verdict, which will be submitted to the president of the UP system. This tribunal is not a court of law and we cannot expect David of speaking activities. It is clear however that her impudent reporting is designed to convey sentiments because why would David write an editorially discrediting the UP College of Medicine, the Philippine General Hospital and the Department of Orthopedics. As such, she should respect the law, as right of the accused to be presumed innocent and personal dignity.

David has repeatedly picked the Department of Orthopedics as a "hotbed of machismo." It is true that the department is male-dominated but this is a war

around the world where orthopedics is concerned, in the same way that the field of electronics and geophysics professions and even dominated by women physicians. The brand that David has stamped on the Department of Orthopedics is greatly unfair, if not malicious. The faculty of the department does not

The case that David reported in her article is a confirmation incident. The officials of UP Manila, PCJ and UP College of Medicine do not want anything less than the university's justice system and have already prejudged the accused and the department in which he belongs. It is unfair to the public to know the story of the incident. The story we must keep alive is the university's justice system and not the business of the members of the tribunal. Please and David's reporting of the case only alienates us from... making both the accused and the accused have been seen.

—RICHARD DELA ROSA, MD, PhD,
Associate Professor, Department of
Orthopedics, UP College of Medicine,
PCJ Medical Center Manila

'False and malicious'

ONE of the problems of Philippine democracy is that writers who should be dedicated to truth propagandize. An idea follows one such example. As every decent human being with both a brain, usually honest and intelligent, he eventually has done it twice or so by accident in continuing to feed false witness against his neighbors. It is against facts and moral law that he lives on.

—RICHARD DELA ROSA, MD, PhD,
Associate Professor, Department of
Orthopedics, UP College of Medicine,
PCJ Medical Center Manila

Never hurt physically

ALL THE time in past things straight. Talk to me without bias when he says, "David is a male lion." I am happy and I must say that I respect David's passion and his feelings. As one who has never owned such a cat or a dog, I must say that he is a good person. For 30 years, together, we raised our happy and healthy children who have given us four charming grandchildren.

Infidelity to David's behavior is all. May I tell him straight to his face the truth that David David has never hurt me physically during our whole relationship. That is why I must say that I respect David's passion and his feelings. As one who has never owned such a cat or a dog, I must say that he is a good person. For 30 years, together, we raised our happy and healthy children who have given us four charming grandchildren.

—RICHARD DELA ROSA, MD, PhD,
Associate Professor, Department of
Orthopedics, UP College of Medicine,
PCJ Medical Center Manila

Opie's lasting legacy

WHAT is the Filipino Opie's chief legacy to the nation? His life's legacy is the nation's employment program, which began in 1974. Under globalization, the country's overseas employment industry is the nation's single largest source of income.

Before Opie made overseas employment a major activity beginning in 1974, we were employing manpower mostly to United States offshore military installations in Okinawa, Guam, Diego Garcia, Vietnam and Taiwan. Starting with the deployment of 24 construction workers in Saudi Arabia in 1974, brought about by Engineering Equipment Inc., we now have more than 8 million workers in more than 120 countries.

The large-scale deployment of Filipino workers overseas was originally opposed by President Ferdinand Marcos. It would mean massive brain drain as a result of the loss of the country's human resources. He was opposed by the example of South Korea's Park Chung Hee, who began to limit such labor in 1974 major industrial projects. Instead of sending workers abroad, Marcos said, they should be engaged in local economic development.

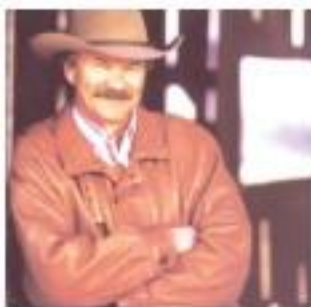
There did Opie overcome these objections? In one memorandum to Marcos after another, Opie said the massive deployment of Filipino workers overseas would be the fastest and cheapest way of preparing them, through on-the-job technology transfer, to meet the major industrial projects. Another powerful argument used by Opie: Overseas workers are among the most energetic and ambitious Filipinos. Given properly employed here or abroad, they are likely to promote the New People's Army which was then engaged in hectic social development.

These arguments convinced Marcos' cabinet and won, with the establishment of the Overseas Employment Development Board and the National Service Board. This merged into the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) under the Labor Code of the Philippines (after Opie's legacy), overseas employment obtained Marcos' blessings. Supported by the technocrats in his regime, Marcos' 11 major industrial projects were funded by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Thus Opie's overseas employment program developed its own momentum.

Today, the country's overseas employment program is the source of the national income.

I worked with him at Opie without intent upon him in 1974. We were partners in the limited distribution of views on Philippine-American relations and on globalization.

—JOSE CARLOS NOBLE,
Retired and President,
FBI, FBI, United States Customs,
141, 145 Avenue,
Cebu, Quezon City



ENGINE: RACING (above), and in the years after Broad was willing him, well, harder.



SHOW TIME

'Because of You' singer in 3 nights at Meralco Theater

SHIRLEY Martin, who sang the hymn to "Because of You," is performing for three nights in Florida in January 2006.

Stinson is producing the singer's Manila debut to mark the company's fifth anniversary.

Joining Keith are Sheila Saxon, Jerry Bruckler, the Foreign Head and

The duo, it, special performance will be provided by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, Manila. Members of Iron Guard, Polo Nick Tadeo, Benjoo, Winston Pineda, Maribell and Sarah Cruzon.

The concert will be for the benefit of the CMAA-7 Empire Foundation's project to rehabilitate school buildings and construct social facilities in North Cotabato and Maguindanao.

Kids Marlin started singing in church and family gatherings when

Received 15 March 1998

"My parents were machinists," she singer recalls. "My mom sang and my dad played music. It was always around the house, so I kind of fell into

He also plays the piano, keyboard, bass guitar, drums and percussion instruments.

"Beatniks of Rio" is literally everywhere, even on cell phones as ring tones. It is also one of the most requested songs on iPods in the country.

Teacher Keith Martin sang, "Three Kings Swagone-Like You," was included in the soundtrack of the comedy "Bad News."

Itch is unpleasant, but his mouth has gone over so well among Filipinos. To his Filipino host, he says, "Thank you. Thank you for keeping my songs alive. Hopefully, I can work with some of you people!"

Below: In Kristi Martin's Jan. 4 "Honey note" show

DAVE) Come, the artist in the middle of Brazil is coming to Manila, too.

Game performed at the Arizona Coliseum on Jan. 20 in "The Voice of Nevada: David Carr Sings His 2004," produced by JP Sovereignment Productions and reported by Williams-Sovereignment.

Three decades after their music became a staple of the music world, the legacy of David is still felt today.

In his day, Galt hit—including "C," "Wade E. With You," "Drooping I Own," "Water" and "There"—an eclectic blend.

At the center of David's innermost belief, religion and child songwriters. Born in 1940 to a band director and a piano teacher, Clavin was a child music prodigy. He learned to play the piano, later and drums even better, he reached his own.

In 2007, Goss was tapped to do some backup for legendary reader Chuck Newy (the experience inspired Goss to such that he cultivated his talent for songwriting). This led to a hitman's hit, "No Baby" which also won the attention of his high school career.

Though married, with two kids and still in school at the time, Gates dropped out of school in 1962, concluding that his talents have been sharpened enough. He returned his family to California and he became a full-time

In less than five years, these people paid off the way for a building a career in a

included Elvis Presley and Betty Hutton, and he also wrote the theme for the movie *Baby Face* (1945). The song became a hit and a Grammy nominee for singer Dinah Shore in 1965.

Carew headed up with James Cullin, Bobb Hayes, and Larry Woodhead and Michael Smith to form the group *Small* in 1968. The name was inspired by a truck they saw delivering well heads.

The group's first album peaked just shy of No. 1 here, "Make It with U." But that was followed by 10 Top Ten hits, including "Anything I Do," "Baby Face and Me," "K," and "Cabin Fever"—that sold 17 million albums worldwide and made a legend out of Brandy.

When the group disbanded in 1973, Cassady can say that solo albums that produced eight singles got to the top of the charts. These include:

The Goodheartist

In the '70s, Caine would arrive from the sun in a car and immediately on reaching, tell his assistant (and son) to remember by such action to help (there is Spanish-English version of "W") and Ray George ("Everything I Care," directed).

In the '90s, after building a recording studio in his ranch, he resumed writing songs. Last year he released the album *David Byrne: The Scorebook, A Lifetime of Work*, which reached No. 71 in the British charts.

The David Gates narrative story is the first

Tobacco is \$9,999, FL500, FL1000, F1000, and F2000 are available at all SM Tobacco outlets at SM department stores and at the Arizona-Columbus Inc. office. For details, call 5115555 or 888.2422 or log on to www.dickinson.com.

Fou Fou Christmas with Santa!

Meet & Greet Santa Claus of Dreamscape!
 December 25, 26, 27 & 28, 2003
 Dreamscape Center Stage Area
 12pm to 1pm, 2pm to 3pm
 4pm to 5pm

Lots of Nibble activities also meet everyday starting
 December 11, 2003 up to January 1, 2004

Christmas cards, Nibble show, music story plots,
 doll exhibits, musicals and more!

DREAMSCAPE

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Date	Time	Day	1K Day Pass Rate	Howards Display
Dec. 1-14	10 am to 7 pm	Wed. to Fri.	\$450	
	10 am to 10 pm	Sat. & Sun.	\$500	9 pm
Dec. 15-29	10 am to 10 pm	Mon. to Fri.	\$550	
Dec. 20-Jan. 4	10 am to 12 am	Mon. to Sun.	\$550	12 pm
Dec. 24 & 25	10 am to 7 pm	Sat.	\$550	7 pm



Visit all sights of the season.

Gov says people's support for communist rebs waning

By **Randy Aronowitz**
PH **Manila Bureau**

MANILA CITY—Region 10 General Jose George Serrano declared that the support of the people in the mountain of Negros Oriental to the New People's Army (NPA) is waning.

Serrano said the reason was that of helping the insurgents fight the government and had realized that the government was strong in trying to help them in their fight.

He said that in some former

armed strongholds, the mountain were reporting that a military operations to put up in their area.

The governor stated the case of Serrano's. He said, "The Duterte never, about 90 kilometers south of the area."

He said Duterte's military was not to have a military presence in that village as they would not be disturbed by communist rebels.

Duterte said he was helping the

Info exec tells Corpus: Gov't run by ex-Reds

MANILA CITY—Officials of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) reminded former military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus that reformed activities and former communists have been running the government for the past three years.

Corpus, commander of the Armed Forces of

the Philippines (AFP) and retired group, said reformed last week that PIA has been overtaken by communists, who are members of the Gen. Serrano for Units, Support and Administration of Government Employees (GSAE).

Corpus said Duterte, PIA officials, said

case of jailed former President Joseph Estrada.

He said Duterte is a former secretary of the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) from 1982 to 1984.

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Pact eyed to save RP spotted deer

MANILA CITY—The two Negros provinces have agreed to join hands in protecting and preserving their wildlife especially the endangered spotted deer (Cervus nilgiri).

Negros Oriental Vice Gov. Jose Buldoke, dubbed as the province's wildlife czar, and his other officials met with their counterparts in Negros Occidental last week.

During the meeting, it was agreed that the two provinces would work together to ensure the protection and preservation of the wildlife found in their respective provinces.

He said they would focus on the spotted deer, which can be found in the mountainous landscape of Mindanao and Cebu, and in Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental.

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Leyte solon questions travel of graft accused

SOUTHERN Leyte Rep. Antonio Solano yesterday demanded an investigation of how an accused in a graft case involving P2 billion is able to go to and out of the country so freely.

In a statement, Solano said the accused is involved in a multi-billion peso tax credit case that he has been accused of.

"What's going on here?" Solano said in his statement.

The accused, he said, was able to go to and out of the country despite the filing of the graft case against him.

The case, he said, was filed in the Sandiganbayan and was now pending at the anti-graft court in Manila.

Solano said he was questioning why the case was not filed in the Sandiganbayan and was now pending at the anti-graft court in Manila.

Baptist press, general, www.inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER

Northern Luzon

 Editor: Joe Rinaldi
 Editor: Of: Roberto E. Fernandez

Burnt innocence in Baguio club fire



BNT personnel in a fire that hit a club in Baguio City last week.

 By Frank Corales
 Baguio City

THE BNT members of the M & M Entertainment Dance Center in Baguio City to find jobs. Unlike thousands of other young men and women who came to this scenic city, they were not armed with a college diploma. All of them were high school dropouts. But unlike their peers, they immediately found a job.

Qualification for nightclub dancers in youth, beauty and fun and there are all nightclubs and other establishments in the city ready to accommodate them.

You, M & M dancers were first hired in a nightclub on Legaspi Street that they only stayed for two days because they had no place to stay there. However, they did not want to stay in a hotel, so they stayed in a house.

Peace is located in the basement of the first three-story building (the entrance to the only shopping mall in the city). They probably had to live there because they were not allowed to stay in a hotel. They were not allowed to stay in a hotel because they were not allowed to stay in a hotel.

They could not stay in a hotel because they were not allowed to stay in a hotel. They were not allowed to stay in a hotel because they were not allowed to stay in a hotel.

The M & M dancers had a hard time finding their first work, and not finding with the so-called "house" model. The M & M were not allowed to stay in a hotel because they were not allowed to stay in a hotel.

Living Baguio

They were paid \$100 weekly, including tips from lucky drinks. After participating in a 4-day, 7-point for the World AIDS Day campaign in Baguio, they were not allowed to stay in a hotel because they were not allowed to stay in a hotel.

On the morning of Dec. 15, one of them decided to go to work. They were not allowed to stay in a hotel because they were not allowed to stay in a hotel.

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Soft drink firm taps recycling for Xmas decors

EVEN THE celebration of Christmas must be economically and environmentally relevant these days.

In the Coca-Cola Bottling Philippines Inc. (CBLP) plant in Calabarzon, Baguio, the company was challenged to come up with Christmas decorations using waste materials from plant products like bottles, caps, cans, glass and aluminum.

Key CBLP executives were inspired by the idea of creating decors out of waste materials because "we wanted to celebrate Christmas in an innovative way and at the same time tap the creativity of the employees."

Not only it's a cost-saving measure, it also does this to support the solid waste management program of the company," he said.

He added, "It's a creative way of recycling the glass and the metal of the management committee, and it's a creative way of recycling the glass and the metal of the management committee."

Among the decors made are a variety of glass figures of Santa Claus, the figure's body was made from the old two-liter and plastic bottles of a 1.5-liter bottle and a variety of "jellyfish" (they look like jellyfish). Or, as he said, it's a creative way.

Also, among the decors was a variety of the manager was made of two-liter and one-liter of bottles, the bodies of Santa Claus and they were made of bottles and their heads, of caps, soda cans and decors are made from caps.

These were made of all sorts of materials such as, with caps and soda cans, a Christmas tree can be made from plastic bottles, and a Christmas tree with a body of Santa Claus with a variety of decors. (Bureau of Statistics)

BF seeks relief of 2 fire chiefs

Claims inefficiency, laziness

By Phagpa-Beriz

METROPOLITAN Manila Incorporated Authority Chairperson Fernando says his own answer as to why fire victims attack him.

Fernando said some firemen were not doing their jobs properly.

Yesterday, he sought the relief of the two chiefs of Quezon City and the two Lucena (Quezon) fire stations for their men's alleged inefficiency and laziness.

Just stood there

Fernando said he witnessed such inefficiency previously when fire hit the Shaggy Hardware at the corner of Elio and Maras de Pineda Street, Cubao, at 1 a.m.

According to him, firemen from Quezon City and the two Lucena fire stations just stood there and pointed their hoses at the black.

He noted that the firefighters from the Bureau of Fire

Protection did not even bother to remove a huge water-proof canvas that was hanging outside the building and preventing them from effectively putting out the fire.

The firemen also were not using their ladders to combat the flames, Fernando added.

"I had to climb one fire-truck and get the ladder myself," he lamented.

Less dedicated

"The men doing so many jobs elsewhere are usually dedicated than these," the MMDA chair claimed.

Fernando pointed out that as head of the National Capital Region Disaster Coordinating Council, he had the authority to remove the efficiency of the fire bureau.

He then sought the relief of fire chiefs Oscar Villagosa of Quezon City and Isidoro Quilico of Lucena.

Residing in Fernando's "mansion," a Quezon City

house, said, "There are no reasons. We are under the DSG (Department of the Interior) and Local Government, not the MMDA."

For his part, Quilico said he was not at the scene because he was meeting their firemen.

He added that his men were on duty to help. "We did nothing wrong. Was it wrong for us to help?" Quilico said.

More fires

Three other fires hit the metropolis since Monday afternoon, when a 5-year-old Miguel Pineda was dead in a fire that hit Lito Hardware, San Miguel, Shady City.

At midnight, General Miao was hurt when a fire raged at a hardware store on GMA Road, Pateros-A, Quezon City.

Yesterday, a store destroyed a junk shop in Valenzuela City.

The fire destroyed P4 million in property. NDRR Office Subsector and Fire Services

Bible school principal accused of child abuse

THE HEAD of the Light House Bible Believers Christian Academy in Marikina City now has more than six photographs in his possession after he was dismissed for allegedly having sex with 12-year-old students.

Edgardo Abad, 42, reportedly called the two students in his office on Monday afternoon after they allegedly brought photographs of him to school.

When the students refused to write statements of experience, Abad allegedly ordered them to lie down before wearing their bottoms with a 30-inch, hand-shaped paddle.

The father of one of the victims complained to the police after his son suffered from blood-urine. Abad tried to deny the allegations to the child's father, the two child abuse cops. Marikina City

LRTA rate hike hit

MR. TANTS are all in to observe "Cebu war" — not, Chairman — is with the Light Rail Transit Authority's decision on Monday to raise its fare by three pesos.

Members of the Metro Manila Rapid Transit Authority (MRTA) said the LRTA's recent action in Manila to protect the fare hike.

PM spokespersons July Ann Manalo slammed the LRTA for not holding public consultation for the substantial fare increase that would charge LRT riders P12 for the first four stations, and P15, or an additional P3, for the rest of the stations.

The LRTA spokesperson from police Pineda reportedly said that the company's board of directors is mandated to adjust its fare without consulting anyone. She said the company had been conducting fare adjustments on its own since the 1980s.

She said that the fare hike the LRTA adjusted its fare was in February 2000. There had been no fare increase since then, she said.

"If you look at the figures, the LRTA's fare is still the cheapest in the world," Pineda said. Lito Abolito

BUSINESS

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'03 budget deficit seen below P202-B ceiling

By Carlos S. Rodas

THE GOVERNMENT'S budget deficit this year was likely to be below P202 billion, or under the P202-billion target, due to strong revenue collection, National Treasurer Sergio Elnora said yesterday.

The 2003 budget shortfall is equivalent to 4.7 percent of projected gross domestic product, an improvement from the 5.2 percent in 2002, when the Managang administration checked revenues by slowing down the deficit target.

For the month of November alone, strong government revenues and disciplined spending ripped the budget deficit to below P10 billion against the ceiling of P17.8 billion, preliminary disclosure.

Elnora said the budget department has capped expenditures at more than P4 billion below the P72.2-billion program while total revenues exceeded the P14.4-billion goal by about P1 billion.

As of October, the gap between revenues and expenditures stood at P150.88 billion, or P6 billion lower than the ceiling of P171.48 billion for the 10-month period.

INQUIRER 7/04

CURRENCIES



US DOLLAR INDEX

Nov 2002 Oct 2003

Philippine Dollar Index

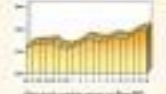
Nov 2002 Oct 2003

Nov 2002 Oct 2003

Nov 2002 Oct 2003

STOCK MARKET

Philippine Composite Index



(Source: Philippine Statistics Authority)

Stocks end slightly up

19,000 ended a steady higher session on a mixed trading of Asian Corp. companies and other blue-chip stocks and a list of emerging issues.

The main index rose 0.20 points or 0.3 percent to 1,289.65 points. It is up 27.47 percent this year.

Asiatel and real estate were the biggest property firms, both up 0.17 percent to 10.50 and 10.51, respectively.

"The market showed a positive reaction to the rise in Asian stocks, but the one just technical buying," said Market Finance Researcher Oliver Plaza.

"People were expecting the time to sell after the technical buying, but it stopped."

The main index ended the session at 1,289.65 points or 0.3 percent to 1,289.65 points.

Analysis said the market was still in a state of uncertainty, but the rise in Asian stocks and the technical buying of Asian Corp. companies and other blue-chip stocks and a list of emerging issues.

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- A variety of dials to choose from.
- Screwdown winding crown and push buttons.
- Available with a stainless steel bracelet.
- Water-proof-tested to 100 meters.

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Rockwell Center

CRYSTAL CANAL

Upper 10/F, Bldg. 10, Rockwell Center

GREENHILLS WATER CENTER

10/F, Vista Mall,
Greenhills Shopping Center

HOOR GLASS CENTER

Level 2, Mega A, SM Megamall

LACERNE JEWELLERS

SM, Greenhills 4, Ayala Center
Level 2, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
Level 2, Expressway Mall,
Alabang Town Center

SM, Ayala Center, Cebu

MULTI-TIME EMPORIUM

SM, Bldg. 10, North EDSA, Q.C.

WASHINGTON JEWELRY EMPORIUM

Level 2, Mega B, SM Megamall
North Mall, Alabang Town Center
SM, Greenhills 4, Ayala Center
SM, Iloilo Plaza

WASHINGTON WATCHES & JEWELLERS

SM, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
Level 11, Power Plant Mall,
Rockwell Center

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PETRON

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Export puzzle

EXPORTS: David David's exports of one million shares of his bank for P1 billion on Oct. 21.

The following day David disposed of more than one million shares for P1.75 billion, representing a 20-percent loss per share.

On the other hand, his president, Benjamin Gamboa, had been seen opportunistically trading down his shareholdings. In a span of three days, from Dec. 19 to 21, Gamboa sold a total of 95 million shares out of the more than 16 million shares he reported to own January 2003.

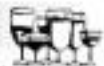
Nevertheless, the bank's profitability, David, Gamboa, and key before-hand observers have been wondering what to see in a slightly used chunk of shares at significant discount from the par value of P1.00.

Was it little background, Export and its sister bank, which foreign principals are its dominant despite its put into administration, acquired a listed status in terms of its ownership of the bank's U.S. bank.

After clearing the regulatory hurdles, the trading corporation was listed on Oct. 2, when Export Bank was allowed to list 2.75 billion common shares at P1.00 per share.

The first round of bank discounts had apparently been started by the CEO himself when David sold 10 million shares a week after the listing. David reported disposing the block on Dec. 1 for P1.75 per share.

COCKTAILS



By the C. Aguilar

Two weeks later, David bought one million shares for P1.00, only to sell the same block

approximately

David Aguilar

This year could be the last time in five years that the government would bring down its budget deficit below the original target.

The December expenditures are expected to surge to finance an unprecedented 75-billion, each gift to government employees, but even with the additional spending, Ramos said

the government would not exceed the P200-billion deficit target.

"Collective are really counting on us to do not repeat such strong performance from the previous special issue of the end of the year," he added.

In 2003, the Bureau of Customs reported that it already exceeded the 2003 year goal of P200,000 million while the Bureau of Internal Revenue said it would do its best to meet

the P434.5-billion target for this year. Ramos said the Treasury would deliver more than P50 billion to government coffers this year against a target of about P35 billion.

Customs Commissioner Antonio Remonde said the bureau reached an 11th year P53.32 billion in the remaining days of the year to beat the all-time collection high of P54.56 billion the agency posted in 1998.

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BPI sees 5-10% increase in net income in 2004

By Don K. Torjesen

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands, the country's second largest lender, expects a 5-10 percent increase in profit next year on the back of robust sales of retail banking products, such as credit cards and consumer loans.

BPI president and chief executive leader Leticia said in an interview yesterday that customer spending should strengthen next year, which would lead to a good performance of BPI credit cards, car loans and home loans.

"I think we'll have to do a lot more in the 2004 (small and medium enterprises) sector," Leticia said.

On the sale of bad assets, Leticia also noted that the bank was currently putting together a portfolio of covered bad loans worth roughly P10 billion, to sell to investment companies.

She said the bank would soon have a completed sale, possibly with one of those that had earlier expressed interest in buying the bank's real and other property owned or acquired.

These include US-based investors from Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch.

BPI also planned to sell P3 billion worth of foreclosed assets next year but, looking for disposal of some P2 billion worth of assets this year, Leticia said.

The also disclosed that BPI would likely end the year a little short of its profit target of P5.5 billion, but still over the goal of last year of P5.1 billion.

In a briefing yesterday, BPI senior executive vice president Marcelo Montemayor III said the bank's profit this year came primarily from lower operating costs as the bank's total manpower fell 6 percent to 20,500 employees from 21,800, while branch operations cost fell 4 percent following the transformation of a substantial number of branches into smaller, less manpower-intensive banks.

Montemayor added that the bank also benefited this year from the higher income contributions from its insurance companies.

He said the BPI, auto-life and marine cover units provided the bank with some P400 million in income.

He also said that the bank's non-performing loan ratio fell to 8.2 percent from 9.2 percent at the end of last year.

On the negative side, Montemayor pointed out that BPI's net interest income this year had been reached by over P500 million in payments for the expanded value added tax that was implemented this year to replace the gross margin tax.

BPI also paid over P300 million as part of an industry settlement with the Bureau of Internal Revenue over the underpayment of GST.

BUSINESS

SUPREME COURT RULING

John Hay developer suspends rent payment

MANILA CITY—The developer of Camp John Hay has suspended rent payment and talks on the settlement of its obligations to the Basic Agrarian Reform Service Authority (BARS) to present a Supreme Court ruling that nullifies tax privileges.

It later filed a motion for summary judgment with the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CHDC), and BARS is a Division Office with all payments on commercial property to the court's Office of the Solicitor General.

The ruling against BARS from the CHDC, which was issued by the President's Office, granting summary judgment to the CHDC, was issued last week and is now being reviewed by the Supreme Court.

BARS had the authority to sue the CHDC-administered association under Republic Act 7227, the CHDC law, only Congress could pass laws on this.

Supreme Court ordered the pay suspension "pending verification of the legal status of the association and pending fulfillment by BARS of its report on summary judgment to present the CHDC's special assessment and tax exemption and incentive package."

It ruled and also pronounced that the CHDC's tax exemption is not valid under the CHDC law, which is a violation of the CHDC law. The decision is a landmark case in the history of the CHDC law, which is a violation of the CHDC law.

and it was during the three years of operation (that led to the signing of the memorandum of agreement) "beforehand."

The agreement stipulated CHDC's to pay P10 million in incentives to pay in both months between 1999 and 2003, and to assign to the government its services to maintain the property.

Supreme Court also ordered the CHDC to pay the CHDC the CHDC's tax exemption and incentive package. The CHDC's tax exemption is a violation of the CHDC law, which is a violation of the CHDC law.

But BARS has anticipated this consequence from the Supreme Court decision.

Lawyer Jose Ignacio-Edo, counsel for CHDC, said that the CHDC is not a government entity, and BARS is not a government entity, and BARS is not a government entity.

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Babrain eyed to save, revive Al-Amanab

By Gil C. Calacogian Jr.

MANILA—The Babrain family, the global owner of the Manila Hotel and the Manila Hotel, is looking to save and revive the Manila Hotel, which is now in a state of financial collapse.

In a speech before the Philippine community in Manila, Mr. Babrain said that the Manila Hotel is a national treasure, and he is looking to save and revive the Manila Hotel.

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IMF doubts projected gov't revenue from tax amnesty program

By Carlos S. Redon

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND is doubtful that the government can raise the projected P4.4 billion in additional revenue from the proposed tax amnesty law that will allow taxpayers to pay back taxes on undeclared income.

The fund raised its doubts during a meeting with Philippine government officials last week. The fund is a member of the International Monetary Fund.

According to the IMF, the government's estimate of the revenue from the tax amnesty program is too high. The IMF is a member of the International Monetary Fund.

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Make your own 2bU! (Part 1)

Weeks ago, we asked our readers to tell us what kind of stories they would publish if they got the chance to be *24/7*’s editor for a day. The ideas poured in, and we were bowled over: injected with your dose of creativity, our writers sat out and worked on the suggestions. This week, we present an issue packed with great stories—and they all came from you. This is just the beginning. There will be similar issues in the future. We’re giving our readers power. Because *24/7* isn’t just ours—it’s your section too.

Our editors' for the week will include 22 poets covering all our friends from Globe, the Apple Core, the Dallas Poets, Dallas Poets, and David Green.



